



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/088,058	06/17/2002	Yasuhiro Kinoshita	M 6726 PCT/US	6717

423 7590 07/11/2005

HENKEL CORPORATION
THE TRIAD, SUITE 200
2200 RENAISSANCE BLVD.
GULPH MILLS, PA 19406

EXAMINER

ANTHONY, JOSEPH DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1714

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/088,058

Applicant(s)

KINOSHITA ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph D. Anthony

Art Unit

1714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

FINAL REJECTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 19 recites the limitation "wherein component (d) is selected from the group consisting of organic acids, ammonia, and amine compounds." There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in independent claim 1 from which claim 19 directly depends.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-9, 13-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Miki et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,397,638.

Miki et al teach a resin-coated steel sheet having good electrocoatability and weldability, characterized in that the resin coating is formed on the layer of zinc plating or zinc alloy plating (with or without subsequent chromate treatment) and is composed mainly of urethane resin containing (a) either colloidal silica **and/or** a silane coupling agent and (b) a phosphate of Al, Ba, Ca, Co, Fe, Mg, Mn or Zn in an amount of 0.01-35 wt % (with or without an additional organic pigment fine powder in an amount of 0.01-40 wt %), see abstract, and claims. . Applicant's claims are deemed to be anticipated over Examples 3, 5 and 10-11 In Table 1, which all teach aqueous coating compositions comprising urethane resin, silane coupling agent, colloidal silica and a phosphate salt. The particle size of the colloidal silica and phosphate salt are both less than 1.0 micrometers. In the alternative, it is unclear from the said examples if the taught coating compositions are applied to a metal substrate using applicant's process step of: "drying said layer of liquid composition, without removing any of said liquid by any other method than volatilization, to form a dry coating" as set forth in applicant's claims 5-8. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the board disclosure of Miki et al as motivation to coating a metal substrate using applicant's claimed process step of "drying said layer of liquid

Art Unit: 1714

composition, without removing any of said liquid by any other method than volatilization, to form a dry coating" since such comes within the broad disclosure of the patent. In any case, such a method of drying a coating is notoriously well known in the art that it would have been once envisaged. In any case, applicant has set forth no evidence of criticality for such a process step.

6. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miki et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,397,638.

Miki et al has been described above and differs from applicant's claimed invention in that there is no direct teaching (i.e. by way of an example) to where a coating composition is taught that actually comprises a silane-coupling agent within applicant's claimed concentration range. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to use the broad disclosure of the patent as strong motivation to actually make coating compositions that comprised a silane-coupling agent within applicant's claimed concentration range. It should be noted that the patent's examples were set forth by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 15-18 are allowed due to the fact that component (c) is selected from the group consisting of alumina, zirconia and titania with a mean particle size of 1.0 μm or less.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 04/20/05 have been fully considered but are not persuasive to put the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Additional examiner comments are set forth next. Applicant's assertion that applicant's concentration ranges, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 10, are both novel and unobvious over the Miki et al patent is rejected by the examiner. Applicant's attention is drawn to column 2, lines 52-58 of Miki et al.. Please note that applicant's independent claim 1 has a ratio of polymer to silane of 3:1 to 1:3 which overlaps the urethane to silane coupling agent ratio of Miki et al of 100:1 to 2.5:1. Applicant's other main assertion is that Miki et al does not recognized the importance of using only particulate matter that has a mean particle size of 1.0 μm or less. The said applicant assertion is clearly false as can be seen in column 3, lines 52-67 of Miki et al., wherein organic pigments having a particle size range of less than 1 μm are taught.

9. The following cited United States Patent Application Publications are not prior-art over applicant's claimed invention because they all have effective filling dates after applicant's claimed effective filling dates. 1) Bittner et al. US 2004/0054044 A1, 2) Jung et al. US 2004/0062878 A1, 3) Jung et al. US 2004/0022950 A1, 4) Paiva et al. US 2004/0068035 A1, 5) Sasaki et al. US 2001/0020066 A1, 6) Shimakura et al. US 2004/0009300 A1, and 7) shimakura et al. US 2001/0054455 A1. Nevertheless, the subject matter of the claims of the said publications raise serious questions of possible

Art Unit: 1714

interference issues with applicant's pending claims assuming applicant's claims are found patentable at some further time and the said US Patent Application publications are found patentable. Applicant's comments are welcomed to address these potential issues.

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

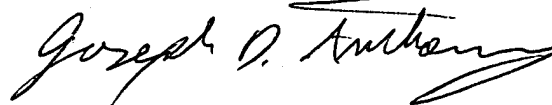
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Examiner Information

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Joseph D. Anthony whose telephone number

Art Unit: 1714

is (571) 272-1117. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on (571) 272-1119. The centralized FAX machine number is (571)-273-8300. All other papers received by FAX will be treated as Official communications and cannot be immediately handled by the Examiner.



Joseph D. Anthony
Primary Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1714

7/7/05